Learning and Reflection Forum  
February 20, 2018 2:00 - 3:30 pm EST  

Engaging Partners to Advance and Sustain Cultural and Linguistic Competence in the Current Climate

The current climate in our nation presents many challenges to engage others in efforts to advance and sustain cultural and linguistic competence (CLC). The Leadership Institute identified three cross-cutting issues occurring nationally that demand attention and require concerted efforts among all partners in the developmental disabilities network. These challenges include: (1) competition for and uncertainty about funding for needed programs, services, and supports; (2) reticence within the developmental disabilities network to discuss issues that are controversial and which involve race, ethnicity, and culture; and (3) differing views on the impact of inequities in services and supports experienced by individuals with developmental disabilities and their families.

The purpose of the Learning and Reflection Forum is to offer tools and strategies to address these challenges including the use of constructive dialogue, getting “buy in,” and promoting equity for CLC. This forum will cite selective practices from the literature and feature the experiences of people within the network, including individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, about how they are confronting and addressing these challenges.

Objectives
Participants will:
1. Describe strategies to engage partners and others in difficult conversations about CLC.
2. Approaches to obtain “buy in” for CLC from leadership, faculty and staff, advocacy communities, and other partners concerned with developmental disabilities.
3. Define what equity and inequity mean within the context of developmental disabilities services and supports and how to partner with others to take action.